

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line <sup>5</sup>7, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 1a and Fig. 1b show a pipe laying vessel 1 having a stern-mounted pipe laying ramp 2, a moonpool 3 with pipe laying tower 4, a hold 5 for the storage of lengths of pipe 100, and a hold 6 for the storage of a drum 7 of pipe or other elongate article. Fig. 1a shows the ramp 2 in an inclined position, while plan view Fig. 1b shows the ramp 2 in both positions, one position being fully vertical, for clarity, the movement to the inclined position of the ramp 2 as shown in Fig. 1a being indicated by the dotted lines. Two outriggers 12 extend from the stern of the vessel 1. A trolley 13 is arranged to run fore and aft on rails along the outriggers, and carries a lock-off clamp 14 movable under load from port to starboard. Fig. 1a shows the near most outrigger cut away in order to give an uninterrupted view of the trolley 13 and lock-off clamp 14. These parts will be described in more detail with reference to Fig. 2.